

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Hanover Theatre Announces 2016 Adopt-A-School Partnership



Worcester, Mass. (November 3, 2016) The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts stands on a pillar of fostering a love and appreciation for the performing arts in audiences of today and tomorrow. To continue nurturing this among Worcester's youth, The Hanover Theatre is collaborating with South High Community School and [Kinky Boots](#) for the fourth annual Adopt-A-School program.

Worcester Public School superintendent Maureen Binienda comments, "Every year the Adopt-A-School Program has an incredible effect on the students at South High. They gain confidence, develop presentation skills and feel they are making an important contribution to our community." Everyone at the theatre is excited for another successful year of outreach with the Adopt-A-School Program and its growth over the past several years. "South High has been with us every step of the way on this 'Adopt-A-School' journey and we couldn't be more excited to be working with the tour of *Kinky Boots* this year," remarks Meghan Montaner, director of education. "The show's messages of true identity, diversity and inclusivity have never been more relevant than they are today. We look forward to promoting the show's message of respect and equality with all of the students."

The Adopt-A-School program is a community effort with past support from Jennifer Agbay of Ballet Arts Worcester and the Worcester Regional Transit Authority. This year, a new community partner has stepped forward to donate transportation for all students to attend The Hanover Theatre's very first school-day matinee of a Broadway show. Durham Bus Company has generously donated 29 buses and handicapped transportation for the students to be taken to and from the theatre. Beyond the Worcester community, dance captains and actors from the national tour have committed to visiting the school and working with the students prior to their visit. Diane Lynch, principal at South High Community School, comments, "This year, as in previous years, South High is honored to be part of the Adopt-A-School program with The Hanover Theatre. The Adopt-A-School program affords our students a wonderful, creative learning experience, and the rare opportunity to attend and experience a Broadway show."

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Kinky Boots is Broadway's huge-hearted, high-heeled hit. With songs by Grammy® and Tony® winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper, this joyous musical celebration is about the friendships we discover and the belief that you can change the world when you change your mind. Inspired by true events, *Kinky Boots* takes you from a gentlemen's shoe factory in Northampton to the glamorous catwalks of Milan. With direction and choreography by two-time Tony® Award-winner Jerry Mitchell and a book by Broadway legend and four-time Tony® Award-winner Harvey Fierstein, *Kinky Boots* is the winner of 6 Broadway Tony® Awards including Best Musical.

The show's company states, "*Kinky Boots*' message of tolerance, acceptance and being comfortable in your own skin is so important and resonates with so many people, especially young people. We are excited to participate in the Adopt-A-School Program and to make a difference in the lives of the students at South High Community School." *Kinky Boots* is at The Hanover Theatre for a limited engagement from November 30 through December 4.

About The Adopt-A-School Program

The Adopt-A-School Program, made possible through the theatre's [Access to the Arts Fund](#) and other generous donations, introduces high school students to live theatre through an intensive 6-week planning process. Early in the school year, faculty members work with education specialists from The Hanover Theatre to plan for their Broadway show experience. Over the course of three weeks, content and themes from the show are integrated into the school's core curriculum. The Adopt-A-School Program has seen immense success over the past three years exposing hundreds of underserved students to their first Broadway show. Furthermore, the program was nationally recognized as a successful way to integrate the arts into core curriculum standards using Broadway shows at the 2014 Broadway League Spring Road Conference in New York City.

For more information about The Hanover Theatre's Adopt-A-School Program, please contact Meghan Montaner, director of education, at Meghan@TheHanoverTheatre.org.

About The Hanover Theatre

The Hanover Theatre continues to draw over 180,000 patrons annually with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits ("Les Misérables," "Jersey Boys"), comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Daniel Tosh), musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend, Donny Osmond) and everything in between ("A Christmas Carol," Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alton Brown). POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the Top Theatres in the World. After eight seasons, the award-winning, historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class performing arts venue, acting as a catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's acquisition of 551 Main Street houses new function space, offices, rental space for a restaurant on the ground floor and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory for the Performing Arts on the lower level.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts and Conservatory. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.